[Jamaica. Public Hospital]

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

ON

THE CASE OF ANN PRATT,

THE

Reputed Authoress of a Certain Pamphlet,

ENTITLED

"SEVEN MONTHS IN THE KINGSTON LUNATIC ASYLUM, AND WHAT I SAW THERE."

JAMAICA:
Printed by JORDON & OSBORN, Kingston & Spanish Town,
1860.

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Public Hospital and Lunatic Asylum,
August 14th, 1860.

The following Official Documents are published in Pamphlet form, in accordance with the direction of his Excellency the Governor, conveyed in the Despatch of Mr. Secretary Austin to the Inspector and Director, Numbered 964, and dated 11th August instant.

D. P. TRENCH,
Inspector and Director of the Public Hospital and Lunatic Asylum of Jamaica.

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS,

&c. &c. &c.

No. 869.

Gov. Sec. Office, July 21st, 1860.

Sir,

I am directed by the Governor to transmit herewith Extract of a Letter* received from Dr. Bowerbank, and to request you to ascertain who the female is that is alluded to by Dr. Bowerbank. You will then, if possible, obtain from her, by *direct application*, what *her complaints are, and investigate them accordingly.*

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
Hugh W. Austin, Gov. Sec.

D. P. Trench, Esq. Inspector and Director
Public Hospital and Lunatic Asylum.

(Extract.)

H. W. Austin, Esquire, Secretary to the Governor,

Sir,

It is again my painful duty to report to you, for his Excellency's information, a most extraordinary and frightful case of abuse which has just transpired with regard to the Lunatic Asylum of this City.

His Excellency the Governor must be aware of my charges, so often reiterated to himself, and to the Colonial Minister, against Mrs. Ryan, the late Matron of the Female Lunatic Asylum, for her ill usage, and especially for the cruel and murderous system of "tanking" the unfortunate patients under her charge; and his Excellency must be aware, that the said Matron has been recently dismissed from her office in the Asylum after a period of sixteen years' service, for the very inhumanity of which I complained so many months back.

* July 14th, 1860.

A poor female was, last January, under very painful and peculiar circumstances, sent to the Lunatic Asylum, in Kingston. There appear to be good grounds to doubt whether, at this time, she was insane. She has however been detained from the 14th January to the 4th July, and has been cruelly and shamefully treated in an Institution under the immediate charge of his Excellency the Governor, in Executive Committee.

She is now discharged, in consequence of the removal, from office, of her oppressor, and she is now prepared to prove the injury inflicted on her, and to seek justice—if it can be obtained.

The case of this poor unfortunate can be furnished either orally or written, as may be deemed most advisable; and I shall be prepared, in case of a *bonâ fide* enquiry, to confirm the truth of almost every charge made by the injured and insulted female.

* * * * *

I have, &c.

(Signed) LEWIS Q. BOWERBANK.

Kingston, 14th July, 1860.

Duplicate.—Notice.

Public Hospital and Lunatic Asylum Office,
No. 49, Mordant Street, 25th July, 1860.

To ANN PRATT, late a Patient in the Female Lunatic Asylum.

Whereas a copy extract of a certain Letter, dated 14th July, addressed to the Governor's Secretary, and signed L. Q. Bowerbank, has been forwarded to me by his Excellency's direction.

And whereas the writer complains of a most frightful and extraordinary case of abuse which has just transpired with regard to the Lunatic Asylum of this City; and further complains that a poor—(unnamed) female was, last January, under very painful and peculiar circumstances, sent to the Lunatic Asylum; that she was detained there from the 14th of January to the 4th of July, and has been cruelly and shamefully treated.

And whereas the writer states, that the said (unnamed) female is now prepared to prove the injury inflicted on her, and to seek justice, if it can be obtained.

And whereas I have received his Excellency the Governor's instructions to endeavour to find out the female alluded to in the said Letter, "and then, if possible, to obtain from her, by personal application, what her complaints are, and investigate them accordingly."

And whereas, on reference to the Register of the Admissions and Discharges of Patients, I find that you, Ann Pratt, are the only female who was admitted to the Lunatic Asylum during the month of January, and that you were the only female who was discharged therefrom on the 4th of July, of the present year.

These are therefore to invite you to appear at the Office of the Inspector and Director, between the hours of eleven o'clock, A. M. and twelve o'clock noon, to-morrow, the 26th day of July instant, and then and there inform me of the nature and particulars of the cruel and shameful treatment, which it is alleged you have been subjected to during your confinement in the Female Lunatic Asylum, and the Names of the persons (being Servants or Officers of the said Asylum), against whom you desire to complain, in order that an investigation thereof may be instituted for the information and consideration of his Excellency the Governor.

Given under my hand, this 25th day of July, 1860.

D. P. TRENCH, Inspector and Director of the Public Hospital and Lunatic Asylum.

I served Ann Pratt with the original of the foregoing notice on Wednesday evening, the 25th July, at Dr. Bowerbank's house, where she was then residing, by handing the said notice to her.

EDWD. CEPHAS, Messenger of the Public Hospital.

North Street, July 25.

To D. P. TRENCH, Esquire,

SIR,

It is impossible for me to attend you to-morrow morning at the time you mention, as I am obliged to attend a Magisterial investigation at that hour. You must be perfectly aware that the charges I have brought, in my Narrative against the Matron, and her Assistants, at the Lunatic Asylum, being of a public nature, precludes me from entering upon any private or *ex parte* examination, and therefore I decline meeting you alone; but, in order to show you that I do not shrink from any fair and open examination, I am

ready to meet you on Friday morning, in the presence of my Solicitor, and two or three other friends.

I do hope you will agree to this, as I am anxious that you especially, as Inspector and Director of the Lunatic Asylum, should personally hear all I have to state regarding the manner of treatment to which I was subjected while under your care.

I am, Sir, your obdt. Servant,

ANN PRATT.

D. P. TRENCH, Esquire, Inspector of the Public Hospital and the Lunatic Asylum.

Notice.—Duplicate.

Public Hospital Office, No. 49, Mordant Street,
26th July, 1860.

The Inspector and Director of the Public Hospital and Lunatic Asylum, (in compliance with the desire expressed by Ann Pratt, in her Letter of the 25th instant), has no objection to take down any charges of neglect or ill-treatment she may desire to prefer against the Servants or Officers of the Female Lunatic Asylum, in presence of her Solicitor, and any friend she may think proper to be accompanied by, on Friday morning, the 27th, at 11, A. M.

D. P. TRENCH, Inspector and Director of the Public Hospital and Lunatic Asylum.

ANN PRATT.

July 26.

SIR,

I will be with you, with my Solicitor, Mr. M'Neil, and my friends, the Revd. Mr. Watson and Dr. Bowerbank, tomorrow morning, at the hour appointed.

I am, Sir, your obdt. Servant,

ANN PRATT.

D. P. TRENCH, Esquire.

STATEMENT OF ANN PRATT.

My name is Ann Pratt. I entered the Asylum on the

14th of January last. It was on a Saturday, about eleven o'clock. I saw two women come into the Doctor's shop, Julian Burke and Antoinette Parola, two Nurses, got hold of my hand. Antoinette began to drag me to the Asylum yard to Mrs. Ryan. I said to her don't drag me, I will go on quietly. Julian Burke said don't drag her, she will go on quietly. Antionette, (addressing me), said to me, "don't drag you, eh! there is no fun here." Mrs. Ryan ordered the Nurses (same as already mentioned), and Johnston, who came in to assist in taking off my dress. I begged the said Nurses to allow me to wear my own clothes. Julian Burke told me it was not allowed. This happened after I had been washed. Some time after this the dinner came in; they did not give me any dinner that day. One of the other patients, Henrietta Dawson, gave me a pan of soup, and offered me a bit of meat, which I refused. After dinner, on the same day that I was admitted, I saw Dr. Keech come into the Asylum yard. I begged him to be so kind as to let me out here, for the people were very rude. I told him that the place was not fit for me to be in, and that I am quite better. Dr. Keech said no, I cannot do such a thing; for if you were not doing something wrong you would not be brought here. He ordered Mrs. Ryan to give me a bed; I got a bed that night, (a canvass bed). I asked Julian Burke for a pillow that I had brought with me; she said no, she could not give it to me, it is not allowed to give the pillow. I found a grass pillow on the bed. Next morning Mrs. Ryan came in to bathe the people; Julian Burke came up to me, and said, "you know I have to tank you this morning!" She told me to take off my clothes in the yard; I refused to do so, but Julian Burke and Antionette said it must be done; and they held me and took me up to the tank, and Julian put me into the tank, and then told me if I behave and deliver myself to her, she won't tank me bad. Mrs. Ryan was standing at the tank door at that time. I told her (Mrs. Ryan), that I was not accustomed to strip myself before all these people. She called out to the Nurses to take off my clothes. The Nurses did so, and tanked me. On Monday morning, 16th January, I saw the tank was full. I mean by the tank the bathing tank; I saw the Nurses drawing a patient to the bath, and was treating her very cruelly, by dragging her on the bricks, and pitching her over the tank, and holding her in the water by the throat; I got frightened; the patient was Louisa Cochrane, and the Nurses were Antionette and Julian Burke; they called out to Rosa Lewis, and many other Lunatic Patents, to assist them. Rosa Lewis did assist them in put-

ting Miss Cochrane into the water. When I saw all this I got very frightened, and I ran from the Lunatic Asylum to the Public Hospital, bawling out to Dr. Keech, who was standing up under the buildings of the Hospital; I ran up to the stairs leading to the Fever Ward, and grasped and hugged the railings. Antoinette and Julian Burke were after me; they caught me on the steps, and took me back. A man, named Thomas, one of the labourers of the Male Lunatic Asylum, assisted the Nurses to take me back. Dr. Keech only came to the steps, and ordered them to take me back. When I was carried back, Mrs. Ryan ordered the Nurses to take me into the tank, and give it to me well in the tank.—I was saying to the Nurses, in Mrs. Ryan's hearing, that I will tell Mr. Trench the way they are treating me here, and the rest of the Lunatics. The Nurses took me to the tank, assisted by three Lunatics, Rosa Lewis, Eliza Scott, and one called Mary. In taking off my clothes they tore my dress; they twisted my arms behind my back, and they held my legs and extended them, one leg being held by Eliza Scott, and the other by Rosa Lewis, both Lunatics; but they were all tearing away at me; they kept me under the water, and nearly suffocated me; it was as much as I could do to keep my breath. They tanked me so often that I cannot remember if it was that same day; but one day that I was severely tanked, Mr. Trench came in, I heard his footsteps, and I was laying down in the yard. Mr. Trench went right round, and asked about the people. I was unable, on that day, to complain to him about this treatment, by drinking so much water; all the dirty water which they wash these people with, that I was too sick to speak. I saw Dr. Scott every morning, but not every evening. During the first week I was in, I made a complaint to Dr. Scott about their holding me into the water. Mrs. Ryan was close by, and she interrupted me, and said, "oh! you are too afraid of the water." Dr. Scott then said, "oh! you must bathe, Miss Pratt." I replied, "yes, Doctor, I will bathe myself, but not in this brutish manner they are holding me, and tearing me, and drenching me to drink all this water." I have made complaints often to Dr. Scott about the treatment I received in the tank; and, whenever I complained, Mrs. Ryan always interrupted me, and told Dr. Scott I am mad. He always walks on, and when the Doctor is gone, Mrs. Ryan often tells the Nurses to take me back to the tank, and say to them, "give it to her well, the Doctor order it." She would then turn to me, and say, "you make complaint to the Doctor, but the Doctor now order me to

give it to you well." On the 12th April last, I was sitting down on the bench, mending my clothes; I saw Dr. Keech was coming in. I took the chemise, which I was mending, into my cell, and put it under my pillow, and afterwards a woman called Frances Bogle, a female laborer, went in and took it out, and opened it up in the yard, and said, she was going to take it to Mrs. Ryan. I said she may take it to Mrs. Ryan; it is my own chemise I brought with me; it is not Mrs. Ryan's. I asked the laborer if I was not allowed to have my own chemise in my own bed. She carried it away through the gate, and shortly after she came back and said to Antoinette, "Mrs. Ryan say you must take it away from her, and lock it up." Antoinette carried it away, and I went to bathe, and could not get the chemise to put on. I had to put on the same dirty one, and did not get the clean one, which Antoinette carried away, until the next Sunday. After I bathed, on the same 12th of April, I went into the privy and was crying; and, knowing that Mr. Hall was in the next yard, I was stating all the treatment I received, because I dare not do it before Mrs. Ryan. Shortly after this, and whilst I was talking, Mrs. Ryan, and Nurse Antoinette, came to the door. I saw them close to the door of the privy; Henrietta Dawson, one of the Lunatic Patients, was in the privy with me. Mrs. Ryan opened the door and said, addressing me, "you wicked devil! don't you see," turning to Antoinette, "she, knowing the Gentleman was in the other side, she goes there for indecency purpose, she wants man." They took me out of the privy, and put me on the bench. Mrs. Ryan went out; Frances Bogle, one of the female laborers, came up to me, and stuffed a piece of bread into my mouth, and was annoying me, and said to me, "you are a damned negro man's wife; if I had you outside, I would beat you." I asked her to go away from me, and she would not; she said, "these mad brutes, when they can't get anything to eat in their Parish, they bring them come stuff them in here, to eat buckra bread and beef. This damn'd mad mulatto brute is just getting mad again." I was answering Frances Bogle when Mrs. Ryan came out. Frances Bogle said to her, "Missis, this woman getting mad." Mrs. Ryan said, "lock her up." Frances Bogle then seized me, at the back of the neck, and tore off one of my sleeves; she nearly choked me; I was struggling with her; Mrs. Ryan called Nancy Lloyd, and Antoinette, to assist in locking me up. Antoinette got hold of one hand, and Nancy Lloyd of the other, and dragged me round the corner of the Asylum Hospital. When Antoinette had hold of one arm, and Nancy

Lloyd had hold of the other, Frances Bogle thumped me in the face, and gave me a horrible black eye. Mrs. Ryan was inside the yard, and saw when they were dragging me, and she ordered them to drag me. She did not say anything to Frances Bogle when she saw her beating me. They dragged me out of Mrs. Ryan's sight, round the piazza, when Frances Bogle hammered me well, and I bawled as loud as I could; but, although Mrs. Ryan was in the Asylum yard, no one came to my assistance; they pitched me in the cell, and locked me up. I got up on the window, and bawled, and made a great noise; and hailing for Mr. Roberts, that he might hear me. Mr. Roberts is the Superintendent of the Male Asylum. John Hall, the labourer of the Female Asylum, came round to me and said, "Hush, you must not make a noise." I was talking out loud that they were murdering me. At this time Mrs. Ryan, who was standing in the yard, ordered Antoinette, Frances Bogle, John Hall, and Nancy Lloyd, to take me to the tank, and tank me well. Antoinette, Frances Bogle, and Nancy Lloyd, took hold of me, and dragged me to the tank; John Hall refused to do it. When they got me to the tank, it was midday; the people had all bathed; there was dirty water in the tank; they took a tub, and scooped up all the dirty water, and dashed it in my face; one person, Antoinette, holding one arm, and another person, Nancy Lloyd, holding the other, while Frances Bogle dashed the water. I was calling out, Frances Bogle is murdering me in here, when she said to me, "you damn'd mulatto bitch, who told you my name is Frances Bogle." Mrs. Ryan was standing close to the tank all the time. Mrs. Ryan asked, who give her two petticoats, you must take away one from her; and they put on only one, and then Nancy Lloyd and Frances Bogle dragged me to the bench. When Mrs. Ryan saw my eye, which was blackened by the blows given me by Frances Bogle, and the exhausted way I was in, she brought a little porter to me, and asked me to drink it. I refused to drink it; she called Old Kate, one of the patients, and gave it to her. Mrs. Ryan said to the Nurses, and to John Hall, "have the tank ready early to-morrow morning, and give her a good tanking; that impudent mulatto thing, I will make her take her impudence back to Lucea, and not bring it here." When night came, Mrs. Ryan ordered me out of the room that I was in, into a cell, with ten other Lunatic Patients, on a platform, and said to me, "don't you think you are going to sleep in this bed." During the night I got upon the window, and bawled out for Dr. Scott, Dr. Keech,

Tinker, and any other body in Kingston. I am a stranger in this Parish, I am not mad; does the Doctor not know one that is mad from one that is not mad; they are keeping me here to be murdered! for God sake, if any body hear me, go and tell my old pastor, Mr. Watson, from Lucea. The Night Nurse, Mary Donaldson, came to me, and advised me to be quiet. I told her I would not be quiet, and I was not quiet. By daylight next morning, Friday, the 13th April, Dr. Keech came to the Asylum; he was earlier that morning in his visit than usual, he came up to me, and asked me why I was making such a noise the previous night. I told him that Frances Bogle had nearly murdered me, and they were now getting the tank ready to drown me. I showed him my eye; he turned away, he looked shocked; he said nothing to me, but went away. After he had gone, Mrs. Ryan came and ordered Antoinette, and Nancy Lloyd, and Frances Bogle, and another patient called Mulgrave, to take me to the tank, and give it to me well. I was then sitting on the bench; they got hold of me, and stripped me at the corner of the piazza, in the yard, in the presence of John Hall, a day laborer, and dragged me into the bath room. Mrs. Ryan was then standing at the bath room door; she said, "now take her in, and give it to her well." They took me in, Antoinette twisted her hand into my hair, Frances Bogle got hold of one hand, Antoinette holding the other with her other hand, behind my back. Nancy Lloyd got hold of one leg, they put me down in the water, first on my back, then on my stomach. Mulgrave, another patient, was in the bath with me, and was ordered to hold me down; and she sat on my chest. Antoinette, Nancy Lloyd, and Frances Bogle, the two last, and the patient Mulgrave, were inside the bath; they all swung me about, and Antoinette beat my head up and down against the wall. They then got on the wall of the bath, and held up my legs, and put my head down into the water, Mrs. Ryan calling out all the time, that is the way to give it to her.

ANN PRATT.

Taken before me, on the 27th July, 1860.
D. P. TRENCH, Inspector and Director.

The preceding having been read over to the complainant, she has requested me to state that, on reflection, she finds that she entered into the Asylum on the 21st of January, and not the 14th, as previously stated in her complaint; the day of the week is the same, and the acts shewn to have been committed, on the Monday, the 16th January, must be

altered to the 23d of January. She also states, that between the said 23d of January and 12th of April, she experienced a continuance of the harsh treatment, particulars of which she will be prepared hereafter to depose to.

ANN PRATT.

Taken before me, this 30th July, 1860.
D. P. TRENCH, Inspector and Director of the Public Hospital and Lunatic Asylum.

At the request of Ann Pratt, and with the consent of the Inspector and Director of the Public Hospital and Lunatic Asylum, we were present during the foregoing statement of the said Ann Pratt.

Dated this 30th day of July, 1860.
JNO. MACPHERSON MACNEIL, Solicitor.
JAMES WATSON.
LEWIS Q. BOWERBANK.

No. 40.—Duplicate.

Public Hospital, 25th July, 1860.

SIR,

I have the honor to request that you will be so good as to report, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, your Medical opinion of the state of mind of Ann Pratt (late a patient in the Female Lunatic Asylum), when she was first admitted into the Asylum, and the particulars of any circumstances in connection with her case, which may have been either observed by yourself personally, or communicated to you by the Matron, on your Medical visits to the Asylum, from time to time.

I am also desired to request that you will state whether any complaints were made to you by Ann Pratt against Mrs. Ryan's treatment of her, or that of any of the Nurses, and report the nature of such complaint (if any), and the action taken by you in reference thereto.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
D. P. TRENCH, Inspector and Director of the Public Hospital and Lunatic Asylum.

JAMES SCOTT, Esq. M. R. C. S. E.
Principal Medical Officer, &c. &c.

Public Hospital and Lunatic Asylum,
26th July, 1860.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge your communication of date 25th July instant, in which you request me to report, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, certain particulars in connection with a female named Ann Pratt, late a patient in the Lunatic Asylum.

In reply I beg to state, that this person was admitted into the Asylum on the 21st January of the present year, and was discharged on the 4th July instant. The documents having reference to her committal to the Institution, as a Lunatic, by the Justices of Hanover, based upon the Medical opinion of Doctor Brebner, are among the Records at the Hospital.

On the admission of Ann Pratt into the Asylum, although apparently quiet, I detected, upon careful observation of her symptoms, undoubted signs of mental derangement, and after a very short time, (within one week after she was admitted), these were developed in such unquestionable form, as to leave no doubt of her insanity; indeed, the paroxysms were sometimes violent, and she was then with difficulty restrained. Such a degree of exhaustion followed one of these as to threaten a fatal termination, but this was averted by treatment.

The Matron reported to me, at different times, Ann Pratt's conduct, and her highly insane condition, to which it was attributable, was painfully apparent both to myself and Doctor Keech, who, in my absence, was obliged, on a few occasions, to visit and prescribe for her.

With regard to any complaints alleged by her as to ill-treatment, on the part of Mrs. Ryan, or the Nurses, I have a distinct recollection of Ann Pratt having once complained of the conduct of a Nurse. On making a morning visit, my attention was drawn to a slightly ecchymosed state of her eyelids, and on enquiry of Mrs. Ryan as to the cause, Ann Pratt stated that she had been struck by a Nurse, who, being present, denied the statement.

I at first directed the suspension of this Nurse from her duties, but considering the existing rules and practice of the Institution, and the relative duties of the Inspector and Director, and of myself, I withdrew the order, and directed the Matron to report the occurrence, in regular form, to the Acting Inspector and Director. I learnt subsequently that the case was reported, and on enquiry as to the result, I was informed that the Nurse had been reprimanded, and

told that, for the future, she was to observe more gentleness towards the Lunatics.

I may here state that this occurred on the 13th day of April, at which time you were away, on leave of absence, from the Institution.

In conclusion, I have most distinctly to state, that no complaint was ever made to me by Ann Pratt that Mrs. Ryan had at any time ill-treated her, nor had I any reason for believing so. Any statement, therefore, emanating from her to the effect that she had complained to the Medical men of such ill-treatment, and that her complaint had been disregarded by them, is wholly without foundation.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your very obedient Servant,
JAMES SCOTT, Principal Medical
Officer of Hospital and Asylum.

D. P. TRENCH, Esquire, Inspector and
Director of the Public Hospital and
Lunatic Asylum.

No. 44.—Duplicate.

Public Hospital, 3d August, 1860.

SIR,

In the Letter of Dr. L. Q. Bowerbank to his Excellency the Governor's Secretary, under date the 14th July (a copy of which I submitted to you for explanation, as to the treatment of Ann Pratt, late a patient in the Lunatic Asylum), the following passage occurs: "She is now discharged *in consequence of the removal from office of her oppressor*, and she is now prepared to prove the injury inflicted on her, and to seek justice, if it can be obtained." I think it likely that his Excellency the Governor would wish to be informed on what grounds Dr. Bowerbank arrived at the conclusion that Ann Pratt had been discharged in consequence of the removal from office of her oppressor.

I have therefore to request that you will be so good as to report, for the information of his Excellency, the circumstances under which you discharged her from the Asylum.

I have, in conclusion, to request that you will cause the commitment of Ann Pratt, and any papers, which accompanied it, to be placed in my possession for his Excellency's information.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedt. Servant,
D. P. TRENCH, Inspector and Director.

JAMES SCOTT, Esquire, M. R. C. S. E. &c. &c.

Public Hospital and Lunatic Asylum,
4th August, 1860.

Sir,

I have the honor to reply to your communication, of date the 3d instant, in which you quote the following paragraph of Doctor Bowerbank's letter to his Excellency the Governor's Secretary, of date 14th July last, in reference to Ann Pratt, late a patient in the Lunatic Asylum, viz :—"She is now discharged, in consequence of the removal from office of her oppressor, and she is now prepared to prove the injury inflicted on her, and to seek justice, if it can be obtained."

You request me to state, for his Excellency's information, under what circumstances Ann Pratt was discharged from the Asylum.

In order thereto, I beg to enclose an original communication from Messrs. James Wilson and H. G. Henry, Churchwardens of the Parish of Hanover, to Doctor Keech, by which you will perceive that a request was made by them to entrust Ann Pratt to the care of Captain Symonette, to be conveyed to her home, should she be considered sufficiently recovered from her late illness, to be allowed to leave the Asylum.

Doctor Keech has no recollection of, nor can he discover the date of the receipt of this Letter, although it was delivered to me as soon as it came into his possession. I am under an impression that it reached the Hospital much later than the 10th of May. I would here draw your attention to the fact of the date, "Lucey, May 10th, 60," not being in the hand-writing of the Churchwardens; and, on examination of the Manuscript, you will observe that the upper portion of the half sheet of paper, on which the Letter was written, and on which doubtless the true date appeared, has been torn off. The date which has been substituted has evidently been affixed by an illiterate person.

As I considered that Ann Pratt had sufficiently recovered, to justify her being sent home under the charge of Captain Symonette, I communicated to her the contents of this Letter, and I informed her that it had been arranged that the Captain would send for her whenever he was ready to leave Kingston. Some delay, on his part, in sending for her, occurred. Fearing from the peculiar constitution of her mind that under disappointment there might be a return of her maniacal symptoms, I advised her to be quiet, and to have patience until the Captain was prepared to sail. I spoke to her almost daily on this subject, assuring her that she would shortly be sent for, and I was the more induced to do so, as she commenced to exhibit a great degree of restlesness and anxiety.

On the morning of the 4th July last, a young man came to the Hospital, and told me that Captain Symonette had sent him to request that Ann Pratt might be discharged from the Asylum, as he was about to sail for Lucca. I asked him at what time the vessel would leave, he replied, on the following morning. I observed to him that I would send her down early in the morning; he answered that the vessel would sail "before day," and that Captain Symonette wished her to be taken to the wharf at four o'clock in the afternoon. I then told him that I would send her at that hour. Accordingly, at four o'clock, she was removed from the Asylum, and I directed that she should be sent in charge of one of the Nurses to the wharf, off which it was said the vessel was lying, and where I expected the Captain would receive her.

I learnt subsequently, that instead of her being taken to the wharf, she, of her own accord, went to Captain Symonette's house, where, having been received by his wife, she was left by the Nurse. From all I can learn, the vessel was then lying in the harbour, but, at what time she actually sailed, I have been unable to ascertain.

Having stated thus much for his Excellency's information, I can only remark, that the statement made by Doctor Bowerbank, in his communication to his Excellency, that "she (Ann Pratt) is now discharged, in consequence of the removal of her oppressor," is simply untrue.

I am at a loss to conceive on what ground Doctor Bowerbank could have arrived at the conclusion that Ann Pratt had been discharged in consequence of the removal from office of the late Matron, for neither had she, nor is the present Matron likely to have the slightest power of detaining or discharging, at will, any inmate of the Lunatic Asylum. The Medical Men alone are the Officers required, under the law, to determine when a Lunatic may be discharged; and, under the circumstances, which I have deemed it necessary to detail, it will be apparent to his Excellency that Ann Pratt was properly discharged from the Asylum, and that she was not released therefrom for the reasons assigned by Dr. Bowerbank.

I beg to enclose, herewith, the commitment of Ann Pratt to the Lunatic Asylum, and the Medical Certificate of Doctor Brebner, declaring her to be an insane person.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your very obedient Servant,
JAMES SCOTT, Principal Medical Officer.

D. P. TRENCH, Esquire, Inspector
and Director of the Public Hospital and Lunatic Asylum.

Jamaica, ss.
Hanover.

To JAMES WILSON, and HUGH GEORGE HENRY, of the Parish of Hanover, Esquires, Churchwardens of the said Parish.

Whereas on the 9th day of December, 1859, it was made known unto the Undersigned, two of her Majesty's Justices of the Peace of and for the said Parish of Hanover, that Ann Pratt, of the Parish of Hanover, Spinster, being at large in the said Parish, was deemed to be insane, and the said Justices, by an order under their hands and seals, required the Constables, or Policemen of the said Parish, to bring the said Ann Pratt before them, or any two Justices of the Peace for the said Parish, at the Court-House at Lucea, in the said Parish, on the 9th day of December, 1859.

And Whereas, on the said 9th day of December, 1859, the Undersigned, two of her Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said Parish, having called to their assistance William Brebner, a qualified Practitioner of Physic and Surgery, did proceed to the examination of the said Ann Pratt, and thereupon found her to be insane, and were satisfied that she is so far disordered in her senses that it is dangerous for her to be permitted to go at large.

And Whereas, on enquiry into the circumstances of the said Ann Pratt, it appears that she, the said Ann Pratt, is destitute of the means of support, and has no relatives or friends to take charge of her. We do therefore order and direct you, the said Churchwardens of the Parish of Hanover, to cause the said Ann Pratt to be conveyed to, and placed in the Lunatic Asylum of the City and Parish of Kingston, established under the provisions of an act of this island, entitled "An act to regulate the Public Hospital and Lunatic Asylum in the City of Kingston, and for other purposes."

And, for so doing, this shall be your authority.

Given under our hands and seals, this 16th day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-nine.

(Signed) J. W. DAVIS, J. P.
WM. BROWNE, J. P.

True copy,
D. P. TRENCH.

In compliance with the above warrant, to us directed, we, the undersigned Churchwardens of the Parish of Hanover, do hereby order and direct you to take the body of Ann Pratt, the insane person, and her safely convey to the Luna-

tic Asylum, in the City of Kingston, and deliver her to the Keeper thereof, together with this order.

Given under our hands, this 16th day of December, 1859.

(Signed) JAMES WILSON, Churchwarden.
H. G. HENRY, Churchwarden.

True copy,
D. P. TRENCH.

DR. J. B. KEECH,
DEAR SIR,

Should you consider Ann Pratt sufficiently recovered from her late illness to be allowed to go at large, you will please entrust her to the care of Captain Simmonet, with whom we have engaged a passage for her to this.

We are, Dear Sir,
Your obedt. Servt.

(Signed) JAMES WILSON, C. W.
H. G. HENRY, C. W.
Lucey, May 10th, 60.

The Asylum, Kingston.
True copy.
D. P. TRENCH.

No. 43.

Public Hospital, 3d August, 1860.

SIR,

In obedience to his Excellency the Governor's instructions, conveyed to me by your Despatch, No. 869 of the 21st July, and accompanied by a copy extract of a Letter from Dr. L. Q. Bowerbank to yourself, I adopted the only means at my command, by reference to the Hospital and Asylum Register, to find out the person who Dr. Bowerbank alludes to, as having been the object of gross and frightful abuses, while an inmate of the Female Lunatic Asylum, from the month of January to the 4th of July last, on which latter day, according to Dr. Bowerbank, she was discharged.

2. Finding that Ann Pratt was the only Female Patient admitted to the Asylum, during the month of January, and that she was the only person discharged on the 4th of July, I invited her to attend at my office by written notice, duplicate of which forms (No. 1. of the present Enclosures.)

3. In reply thereto I received the Letter attached, signed Ann Pratt, (Enclosure, No. 2.)

4. Desirous of affording this person every opportunity of preferring her complaint against the Officers and Nurses of the Institution, I sanctioned her being accompanied by her Solicitor and friends, without whom she had declined to appear before me, and waiving, on public grounds, the personal objection I entertained to meet (on Hospital matters) at least one of her friends, I proceeded to take down, *verbatim*, her complaint (as delivered) on Friday, the 27th, and Monday, the 30th July, in presence of John MacPherson MacNeil, her Solicitor, Revd. James Watson, and Dr. L. Q. Bowerbank, her friends, by whom it is witnessed, and authenticated by their Signatures.

5. This Statement forms Enclosure, No. 5.

6. In submitting these Enclosures for his Excellency's consideration, I have the honor to report,

7. First. That the Statement alleges the committal of a series of most unwarrantable assaults on the complainant by persons then, (but no longer) in the service of the Institution, who were, by virtue of their office, entrusted with the care and protection of Ann Pratt, as one of the inmates of the Asylum.

8. Secondly, That the then Matron, Mrs. Ryan, and two out of the three Nurses therein implicated, are no longer under the official jurisdiction of the Hospital Authorities, in their administrative capacity.

9. Thirdly, That the cruelties alleged to have been committed on the person of Ann Pratt, by the Matron and Nurses of the Asylum, form in no degree the legitimate or sanctioned treatment of Lunatic Patients, and renders the aggressors amenable to the statutory laws of the country.

10. Under these circumstances, and for these reasons, I felt it my duty to decline taking down the parol evidence, which was tendered by the Solicitor and friends of Ann Pratt, in substantiation of her charges, until I have, in the first instance, submitted to his Excellency the Governor the complaint, as delivered before me; and my own suggestion, that in justice to the Institution, to the persons implicated, and to the complainant herself, the case should be handed over to her Majesty's Attorney General, and the truthfulness of the charges tested by a Jury, on an indictment against the alleged aggressors.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedt. Servant,
D. P. Trench, Inspector and Director of the
Public Hospital and Lunatic Asylum.

H. W. Austin, Esquire, Gov. Sec.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL TO MR. AUSTIN.

Spanish Town, August 8th, 1860.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Letters of the 26th and 30th July (Nos. 908 and 921), with Enclosures (which I now return); as also a Letter from Mr .D. P. Trench, the Inspector and Director of the Public Hospital and Lunatic Asylum, with certain Documents therein referred to, (which Letter and Documents I likewise now enclose), and, in reply to the request of his Excellency, as to whether any thing in the pamphlet alluded to in the first of the above Letters contains a libel on the Officers of the Public Hospital, and, if so, whether the best and surest mode of arriving at the truth would not be by bringing an action for libel against the publishers, I have the honor to state, that tho' I consider the pamphlet in question contains libellous matter in several parts, and though, in case of an action against the publishers, it would be competent for them to set up, as a defence, the truth of the matters alleged to be libellous, I am of opinion, especially since the perusal of the above mentioned Letter of Mr. Trench, and the Documents referred to in it, that an action for libel, in respect of the pamphlet, or in respect of the articles contained in the "Daily Advertiser" of the 27th and 28th of July, and referred to in your Letter of the 30th July, would not be the surest and most satisfactory mode of testing the allegations contained in the publications above-mentioned, and of arriving at a knowledge of the truth; and I think such a course the more inexpedient, because, in consequence of the official transmission to me, by the Clerk of the Peace for the City and Parish of Kingston, of a certain information on the oath of one Andrew Carey, supported by the depositions of Ann Pratt, (the writer of the above pamphlet), and others, relating to the death of one Matilda Carey, lately a patient in the Lunatic Asylum, and the wife of the above-mentioned Andrew Carey, I have considered it my duty to authorize the Clerk of the Peace in question to institute criminal proceedings against Mrs. Ryan, the late Matron, and against certain persons, lately Nurses in the Lunatic Asylum, upon the trial of which persons, I apprehend, a very full opportunity will be afforded for testing the mode in which that Institution has been conducted. With reference to the charges made by Miss Ann Pratt, and contained in the statement transmitted by Mr. Trench, I beg to say, that immediately on those charges being preferred by her, by way of information, on oath, before a Magistrate (as in the case of Mrs. Carey), I shall feel it incumbent on me,

when officially informed of that fact, to direct such criminal proceedings to be taken in respect of *her* case also, as I may, under the circumstances, consider myself enabled by law to adopt.

I have, &c.

(Signed) Edward Kemble, Acting A. G.

No. 47.

Public Hospital, 8th August, 1860.

Sir,

My attention has been directed to a pamphlet, which has lately been published and circulated extensively through this island, and a great number have, I understand, been forwarded by the last packet for circulation in England.

2. It purports to be the Narrative of a Female, named Ann Pratt, late a Patient in the Lunatic Asylum, and is entitled "Seven Months in the Kingston Lunatic Asylum, and what I saw there."

3. The cruelties, assaults, and abuses therein alleged, so far as they affect this person individually, have been somewhat ambiguously alluded to by Dr. L. Q. Bowerbank, in a Letter addressed to yourself, under date the 14th July last, which Letter, having been transmitted to me, with his Excellency's instructions that I should enquire into and report thereon, has been already dealt with, and the action taken by me, in obedience to these instructions, has been submitted to his Excellency, in my Letter to you, numbered 43, and dated 3d August.

4. But the entire pamphlet now under consideration (of which this poor ignorant woman is made to assume the authorship), is so evidently a disingenuous contrivance to convey to the public mind, a *primâ facie* corroboration of the numerous random charges which have been published from time to time by Dr. Bowerbank against the Officers and Nurses of the Asylum, that I have felt it my duty, and gladly availed myself of the opportunity afforded, to take the examinations of such persons (being in the service of the Institution), as are favorably alluded to in the pamphlet, and are mentioned as being eye witnesses of some of the cruelties alleged against the Matron, and some of the Nurses.

5. I have also examined (after their discharge from the Asylum) two late patients, who are therein alluded to.

6. The first of these examinations is that of John Hall, laborer at the Female Asylum. The alleged ill-treatment towards a patient named Prudence (page 14), is represented

to have been committed in the presence of this man, who, (says the Narrative), remonstrated with the Nurses for their hard heartedness and brutality; and, at page 15, he is represented as having been ordered, on one occasion, to tank the authoress, which he refused to do.

7. In Ann Pratt's parol statement before me, which has been submitted to the Governor, she accuses the Matron and Nurses of stripping her in the open yard before this laborer; but she appears to have forgotten this part of the treatment to herself, while exposing that of the patient Prudence, in her Narrative. Hall's statement however contradicts both of these allegations.

8. The examination of Emma Steele (Enclosure, No. 2), was taken on the morning that she was discharged from the Asylum, in consequence of the allusion to her in the pamphlet, at page 15. The circumstances elicited from her, in reply to questions 3 and 5, is the case that was reported to me by the Purveyor, submitted by me in due course to his Excellency, in my Letter of the 29th of June, No. 18, and led to the dismissal of the Nurse, Nancy Lloyd, who was charged with improper severity towards the Patient, and also to the dismissal of Mrs. Ryan, the then Matron.

9. The examination of Catharine Fare, a late Patient, forms Enclosure, No. 3. She is mentioned in the pamphlet, at page 16, as a witness in connection with the ill-treatment (therein alleged) of the late Matilda Carey, a Patient from Glengoffe, in St. Thomas in the Vale.

10. Enclosure, No. 4, is the examination of Mary Donaldson, a Night Nurse, but for whose kindness (says the Narrative, at page 8,) Ann Pratt must have died long ago; she supplied her with a Prayer Book (page 17), and at page 19, she is represented as having been desired by Dr. Keech to tell Ann Pratt not to say anything about the treatment of the people before Mrs. Brannagan. She appears indeed (according to the Narrative), to have been the one great friend of the Authoress, during her sad affliction; but it does not appear, from this Nurse's testimony, that Ann Pratt had at any time confided to her the indignities and assaults which she suffered so frequently at the hands of Mrs. Ryan and the Nurses, in the stripping and tanking operations. (See replies to Questions 38 and 39), while she firmly denies (in her replies to Questions 27 and 28), having received any such instruction from Dr. Keech, as that charged at page 19.

11. The examination of Mr. Caleb L. Hall, the Purveyor, forms Enclosure No. 5; and

12. The Duplicate of a Letter, addressed by me, on the 30th of July, to the Vicar Apostolic, with that Revd. Gen-

tleman's reply, dated 31st July, and another Letter, addressed by me to the same Revd. Gentleman, under date the 6th August, and the Revd. Gentleman's reply thereto, dated 8th instant, forms Enclosures Nos. 6 and 7.

13. The last two Enclosures have reference to the late Louise Cockerell, late a Patient in the Lunatic Asylum, whose alleged ill-treatment by the late Matron, and some of the Nurses, is prominently depicted at page 15.

14. Enclosure, No. 8, is a true copy Extract of a Letter written by one of the Magistrates of Hanover (Mr. Brown), who signed the commitment of Ann Pratt (as a Lunatic), and addressed to a Gentleman in Kingston, who, in furtherance of the cause of truth, has, in accordance with the permission of the writer, placed it in my possession.

15. These several Documents are submitted to his Excellency the Governor, not with a view, in the slightest degree to prejudice any judicial enquiry that may be instituted, as the result of the charges preferred by Ann Pratt, in her statement, delivered before me on the 27th and 30th ultimo, but in order that his Excellency's Government may be officially advised to what extent the allegations contained in the pamphlet represent the truth, so far as they affect the general treatment of Lunatic Patients by the late Matron, and the Nurses therein named.

16. I do not attempt to conceal from his Excellency my own belief that greater roughness and severity is at times exercised by the Servants and Nurses of the Asylum than is desirable or proper in the management of violent Lunatics, but I feel entirely convinced, in my mind, that (with every allowance for this evil), the Narrative, which has been put forth to the world, is from first to last a disgusting, overdrawn picture of falsehoods and exaggerations.

17. It is extremely difficult to employ Nurses and Servants of mild temperament and good character, in whom are combined, with these desirable qualities, the necessary strength of mind and body to control and manage Lunatics during their violent paroxysms; and, unless provision is made, at a considerable additional expense to the public for the importation of thoroughly trained Nurses, I fear the evils, which result from the necessity of employing inexperienced and untrained Nurses at the present cheap rates, must, to some extent, continue.

18. No amount of surveillance, by the Officers of the Institution, as at present constructed, can ensure an entire check to the occasional display of that irritability of temper, which is peculiar to the class of persons to whom our selec-

tion of Servants and Nurses is at present necessarily confined.

In conclusion, I beg leave to transmit to his Excellency, a copy of the pamphlet in question, which will be found full of contradictions and inconsistencies.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedt. Servant,
D. P. TRENCH, Inspector and Director of the Public Hospital and Lunatic Asylum of Jamaica.

H. W. AUSTIN, Esquire, Gov. Sec.
&c. &c.

No. 1.

JOHN HALL EXAMINED BY INTERROGATORIES.

QUESTIONS.	ANSWERS.
1st. What is your name, and what position do you hold in the Female Lunatic Asylum?	1st. My name is John Hall. I am a day laborer in the Female Lunatic Asylum.
2d. Do you know a Patient, in the Asylum, named Prudence?	2d. Yes, Sir.
3d. Is she now in the Asylum?	3d. Yes, Sir.
4th. Do you remember her being delivered of a child, and can you tell me the date of her confinement?	4th. I remember that she was delivered of a child, but I cannot tell the date of her confinement.
5th. Do you know whether or not she was tanked, or bathed shortly before her confinement?	5th. No, Sir, I don't know any thing about that.
6th. Did you ever see the patient, Prudence, stripped naked, and all her clothes taken from her. If so, state by whom she was so stripped, by whose order, for what pur-	6th. Not to my seeing; all I know is, that I was desired, one morning, to carry her into the bathing room, and deliver her up to the Female Nurses. I was order-

pose, and any thing else you know about it?

ed to do this by Mrs. Ryan. It was between eight and nine o'clock in the morning; this was about a week before she was confined. She was very violent then. I don't remember anything about her being stripped after her confinement.

7th Do you remember seeing the Nurses ill-treating Prudence in any way, at any time; and, if so, state the names of the Nurses, the time you saw them ill-treat her, and say what you did when you saw it?

7th. Not to my seeing, Sir; I never saw any one ill-treat her.

8th. Did Mrs. Ryan ever call on you to assist to tank or bathe Ann Pratt?

8th. Yes, Sir, she did ask me to help to give her up to the Nurse in the bathing room.

9th. Do you know why Mrs Ryan asked you to do this?

9th. She was always very rough when she was required to bathe, more especially when she was excited.

10th. Could not one of the Female Nurses have taken her to the bath room?

10th. Oh! no, Sir; it take sometimes four of them to bathe her.

11th. Were you ever ordered or required, by Mrs. Ryan, to assist the Female Nurses in the act of bathing Ann Pratt; and, if so, did you comply with the order, or did you refuse to do so?

11th. No, Sir; she never attempted to order me such a thing as that; she has ordered me to assist to put her in the bathing room, and I have done so, but she had always her clothes on at that time.

12th. Did you not resign your situation as Day Laborer while I was absent from the island, and will you state the reason why you resigned?

12th. After you went off the island I was absent from my work, sick for two weeks. I came back the following week after that, and I was at my work until one Sunday. About eleven o'clock, I went to my breakfast, and, when I came back, Mrs. Ryan told me she was looking for me

to go over for some medicine. She commenced to quarrel with me, and words passed between us; she told me I was drunk, and if I did not want to stop in my situation, I could go away; and, before having any quarrelling, I left.

13th. Are you quite sure that Mrs. Ryan never asked you to do anything to the Lunatics that you considered improper, and refused to do?

13th. No, Sir; she never asked me to do any thing that is rough on them, and I refuse.

14th. How long have you been a servant in the Institution?

14th. To the best of my knowledge, going and coming, about seven years.

15th. Can you remember, during that time, having seen Mrs. Ryan, or any of the Nurses, tank or bathe patients out of the usual hour for bathing, or have you seen them ill treat any patient?

15th. No, Sir, not to my seeing; things might be done, not in my presence.

16th. Did you ever hear any patient complain of being ill treated? If so, state the nature of such complaint, and, if possible, by whom such complaint has been made?

16th. Oh! Yes, Sir, I have heard them complain sometimes their belly don't full. Kate Pinnock almost always complain. I don't remember the names of any more, but when it comes on dinner time they mostly complain that they can eat more than they get, and they want yams, instead of bread.

17th. Are you quite sure you never heard any of them complain of Mrs. Ryan, or the Nurses?

17th. No, Sir, not to my hearing.

his
JOHN ⋈ HALL,
mark.

Witness.—GEORGE NIX.

Taken before me, this 27th July, 1860.

D. P. TRENCH, Inspector and Director.

In my presence, ANDREW DUNN, M. D.

No. 2.

EMMA STEELE, LATE A PATIENT IN THE FEMALE LUNATIC ASYLUM, EXAMINED BY INTERROGATORIES.

QUESTIONS.	ANSWERS.
1st. What is your name, and what Parish do you belong to?	1st. Emma Steele; I belong to the town of Falmouth.
2d. How long have you been a Patient in the Lunatic Asylum?	2d. From since I leave Falmouth. It must be going on four months now, and I was three weeks at sea coming up.
3d. Have any of the Nurses ill-treated you. If yea, tell me who has done so, how they have done so, and when?	3d. One day I was sitting down, and I said I want to see my child, and I don't know what they are keeping me here for. Then Mrs. Ryan said to Nancy Lloyd, take her in and tank her (meaning me). Nancy Lloyd immediately took me by the hand, and led me to the bath, and shoved me in the bath; and, as she found she could not manage me, she called out for help, and about three or four others came up and ducked me.
4th. How long was this after you had been in the Asylum?	4th. About three or four weeks after I came in to the Asylum.
5th. Did she do anything else to you?	5th. Yes; the same day I was sitting on the piazza crying, after she had tanked me. I had my wet clothes on, the same Nurse came up and said, I had no right to cry, and laid hold of me, and was carrying me past the gate to go back to the tank, and she pushed me down; when I was down on the ground I saw

Mr. Hall; the Nurse took me back to the bath room, but did not put me back into the bath; she looked frightened when she saw Mr. Hall.

6th. Has Mrs. Ryan ever ill-treated you?

6th. Yes.

7th. Explain in what way she ill-treated you?

7th. When I came out of the bath on the same day, and dressed myself, I was sitting on the bench. Mrs. Ryan came up and said, "Go away out of this to the washerwoman, and wash clothes, you are too lazy." As I got off the bench, she pushed me with her umbrella; I went to the wash tub, but I was not able to wash clothes, I was so weak.

8th. Did she ever trouble you again?

8th. No, never; only she sometimes look at me very cross.

9th. Did Dr. Scott come to see you?

9th. Yes, every morning.

10th. Did you ever complain to Dr. Scott about Mrs. Ryan, or the Nurse's ill-treating you, and, if not, why did you not?

10th. No, I never complain to him, because I did not wish to disturb him.

11th. How were you fed; did what you receive in the way of food satisfy you?

11th. Yes; what they gave me I was always very well satisfy with.

12th. Have you any other complaints to make at all about your treatment in the Asylum?

12th. None at all; and I did not require any physic.

her
EMMA ⋈ STEELE,
mark.

Witness—GEORGE NIX.

Taken before me, this 26th July, 1860.
D. P. TRENCH, Inspector and Director.
And, in my presence,
ANDREW DUNN, M. D.

No. 3.

CATHARINE FARE, LATE A PATIENT IN THE FEMALE LUNATIC ASYLUM, INTERROGATED THUS:—

QUESTIONS.	ANSWERS.
1st. What is your name, are you married, and what Parish do you come from?	1st. My name is Catharine Fare, I am married, and I come from Port-Antonio.
2d. When did you leave the Lunatic Asylum?	2d. I leave it one Tuesday, but I don't remember the date.
3d. How long were you in the Asylum?	3d. I was in there four weeks.
4th. What was done to you when you first came into the Asylum, and how were you conveyed from the office to the Asylum, when the Doctor admitted you?	4th. When I first came to the Hospital, a Nurse, named Nancy Lloyd, came and carried me to the Asylum; she took me by the hand, and led me quietly along. When I arrived at the Asylum I saw Mrs. Ryan; she told me to sit on the bench. When I got in dinner was over. Mrs. Ryan got a bread for me; I got rice water in the evening before going to bed. When they called me to go to bed I went round to the room, the Nurse Antoinette pulled off my clothes, except my chemise, which I kept on to sleep in. I asked her not to pull my flannel, and she did not pull it, but left; I slept in my flannel every night.

5th. What clothes did you wear during the day, while you were in the Asylum?

5th. I wore a blue coat and a chemise, both belonging to the Institution.

6th. How often were the clothes changed?

6th. If I put them on on Sunday, I have clean chemise again on Wednesday.

7th. Did you bring any of your own clothing to the Asylum with you?

7th. No. I brought nothing but what I had on my back.

8th. Were you bathed every morning?

8th. Yes, Sir.

9th. Who bathed you?

9th. Antoinette, and Nancy Lloyd, always go into the tank room with me.

10th. Did the Nurses ever call any other Patient to help bathe you?

10th. No, Sir; because I don't afraid of water, and I never give any trouble.

11th. Did you ever hear the Nurses call Patients to assist in bathing any one?

11th. Yes, Sir; them that afraid for water, the Nurses have to call help, because them fight.

12th. What sort of food did you get in the Institution?

12th. In the morning I get a bread, and a pint of coffee. At dinner I get beef, and yam, and soup some days, and other days I get saltfish and yam. Most evening I get a piece of bread; and, a little before sun down, I get rice water.

13th. Were you satisfied with the food?

13th. Yes, after all them other satisfy, me oblige to satisfy; I never complain.

14th. Was Ann Pratt a Patient in the Asylum when you were there?

14th. Yes, Sir.

15th. Did you ever see her bathed?

15th. Yes, Sir.

16th. Who bathed her?

16th. In the morning time

Mrs. Ryan always come in, and say the brown people must bathe first, and Miss Pratt always bathe before the black people. She always bathe herself the four weeks I was there.

17th. Did you ever see any of the Nurses ill-treat any Patient by beating them, keeping their heads under the water when bathing, or making them strip in the open yard?

17th. Emma Steele; one day the Nurses put her to sit down on the bench, and she won't sit down; she get up, run come out into the washing yard, the Nurses go and bring him back to sit down; she keep get up, and want to run away out, and then the Nurse, Nancy, take her into the bathing tank, and she tank her; I can't say what they did inside, because I was sitting outside. When they let her out she go and lean on the platform, and was crying, then Nancy go and bring her back to the tank yard; and, as fast as she take her there, Emma Steele keep running out; the Nurse then went out, and was pushing her into the bath room, when she fell down; and, just at the time, Mr. Hall came up.

18th. Did you ever see them treat any other Patient so?

18th. No, Sir; me no see.

19th. Did you ever see any of the Nurses lay hold of Ann Pratt, and drag her to the tank, or strip her in the open yard?

19th. From I go there such thing never done to Miss Pratt; from me in there Miss Pratt always bathe herself.

20th. Did any of the Nurses ever trouble you, or were they ever cross to you?

20th. No, Sir, by the help of God I never give them any occasion, and they never

trouble me; I always bathe myself.

21st. Did you see the Doctor every day, and did you ever hear any Patient complain to him about Mrs. Ryan, or any of the Nurses?

21st. Dr. Scott come there every morning; he come in the evening sometimes, but morest in the morning. I only hear Mrs. Brown say, one morning, to the Doctor, that him got fever, that is all me hear. Sometimes they talk to themselves, but I never give my ears to them.

22d. Have you any fault to find at all with the Nurses, or Mrs. Ryan, towards yourself?

22d. No, Sir; I got no fault to find, because I always do what is right, and what they tell me to do, and therefore I don't give them any occasion.

23d. Were you ever called upon, while in the Asylum, to assist the Nurses in bathing any Patient, and, if you were, state the particulars?

23d. When Mrs. Carey, one of the Patients, was so wild, that they could not manage her, they were obliged to call help, and me always go help them. We carry her into the tank and throw water upon her. She had purging on her at that time, and they would not let her go inside the tank; nothing ever happen, except one day the Nurse go to take him out of the bath room, and her foot get into the little gutter, which side the water run out, and she fall down.

24th. Did you ever see the the Nurses drag Mrs. Carey along the ground, or did you see them thump her, and haul her down?

24th. When they hold her to carry to the tank to bathe, she is so wild she won't go; when they go to take him to carry to the tank to bathe her, she draw herself from them, and tumble down; and when they go to take her up she fight them, and they

oblige to call for help. From me go there I never see them duck her, but they throw water, and I help hold her, because she was very wild. Miss Pratt was asking me all about that already, and I tell her I don't know anything about that.

25th. Tell me all what Miss Pratt said to you, when she said it, and where she said it?

25th. I met her in the street Saturday gone, she ask me if I no been there when they duck Mrs. Carey, I tell him that from me go in there (the Asylum), I never see them duck Mrs. Carey; then him tell me I must come go where she lives. I ask her where she live, she tell me she lives at Doctor.

26th. Did she tell you what Doctor?

26th. Yes, Sir; she tell me say at Dr. Bowerbank's.

27th. Did you go with her?

27th. Me go half way, I tell her say me hungry, and I turn back; then, when me turn back, him turn back too, and we both go to Henrietta Dawson's house. I just tell Henrietta howdye, and I went which side me live; I don't see Miss Pratt since.

her
CATHARINE ⋈ FARE,
mark.

Witness.—GEORGE NIX.

Taken before me, this 30th July, 1860.
D. P. TRENCH, Inspector and Director of the Public Hospital and Lunatic Asylum.

And, in my presence,
ANDREW DUNN, M. D.

No. 4.

MARY DONALDSON EXAMINED by INTERROGATORIES.

QUESTIONS.	ANSWERS.
1st. What is your name, and what position do you hold in the Female Lunatic Asylum?	1st. My name is Mary Donaldson, I am one of the Night Nurses of the Female Lunatic Asylum.
2d. How long have you been in the service of the Asylum?	2d. About eleven months.
3d. Did you ever, as Night Nurse, hear any Patient complain of ill-treatment in the Asylum; and, if yea, state the Names of such Patients, and the nature of their complaints?	3d. Yes, Sir; I have heard Miss Pratt complain to me. I went in one evening which side she was locked up, and she said to me, "them nearly kill me to-day." I asked her what for, she said she was mending a chemise, and she saw Dr. Keech coming, and she put it under the pillow, and Frances Bogle took it out, and opened it, and said she was going to shew it to Mrs. Ryan; that she, Ann Pratt, then told Frances Bogle that she might show it, for Mrs. Ryan is not God, and she brought the chemise into the Asylum. She said that Frances went and told Mrs. Ryan that she, Ann Pratt, was quarrelling about the chemise, and that Mrs. Ryan had ordered her to be tanked and locked up; and, after they had tanked her done, they went to lock her up, and that Frances Bogle had doubled her fist and knocked her (Ann Pratt) in her eyes. I saw the black eye myself. She, (Ann Pratt), then jumped up on the window, and began to

bawl out for Dr. Scott and Dr. Keech, and called to them to attend to what she was saying, because she knew when morning came Mrs. Ryan would not give any power to her to talk.

4th. When did this happen?

4th. I don't know the date, but it was about two weeks after you (the Inspector) went away to America.

5th. Did any other Patient complain; if so, state particulars?

5th. Only she and Henrietta Dawson. Henrietta complained to me about the same time that Julian Burke boxed her.

6th. What state of mind was Ann Pratt and Henrietta Dawson in at that time?

6th. I did not see nothing the matter; they were in good sense.

7th. Did you report to Mrs. Ryan the nature of the complaints made to you by Ann Pratt and Henrietta Dawson; and, if yea, state how you reported, and what was done in consequence of your report?

7th. Yes, Sir, I did report to Mrs. Ryan, but she turned me out of the place, and said I was a lying devil; I don't business with what done in the day to bring it come and tell her; she said she don't know what they put a Night Nurse there for; they were standing very well before without a Night Nurse.

8th. Did you report this to the Medical Officers, or to the Inspector and Director, when Mrs. Ryan treated your report in the way you mention?

8th. No, Sir.

9th. Why did you not report to either of these Officers?

9th. After Mrs. Ryan say whatever the Patients do at night I come and carry it out, I was afraid to report to the Doctors, because Mrs. Ryan was always abusing me.

10th. Did you report to any person outside the Institution what Ann Pratt and Henrietta Dawson told you of their ill-treatment, or of Mrs. Ryan abusing you, when you mentioned these occurrences to her?

10th. No, Sir; me never told any body yet.

11th. Have you had any conversation with Ann Pratt, or Henrietta Dawson since their discharge from the Asylum?

11. No, Sir, I have had no conversation with them at all.

12th. Were you ever called to assist in bathing any of the Patients in the Asylum?

12th. No, Sir; except one morning Mrs. Ryan called me to duck Ann Pratt, and I refused.

13th. What hour was this that you were required to duck Ann Pratt?

13th. About six o'clock in the morning, before I left the Asylum.

14th. Was it a part of your duty to assist in bathing Patients?

14th. No, Sir.

15th. What reason did you assign for refusing to obey Mrs. Ryan?

15th. I told her I had not the heart to duck Ann Pratt.

16th. Do you know what was the reason Mrs. Ryan desired to duck her; was she violent on that occasion?

16th. She had cursed Mrs. Ryan; she was not more violent than usual.

17th. Did you receive orders, on entering upon your duties as Night Nurse, to call Dr. Keech, if any Patient was complaining during the night?

17th. Yes, Sir; Mrs. Ryan gave me orders, if any of the people sick at night, I must call Dr. Keech.

18th. When Ann Pratt complained to you, on the night in question, about her being beaten by the Nurses

18th. She said where they beat her, her skin hurt her.

that evening, what did she say?

19th. Did she appear to you to be in great pain, when she complained?

19th Yes, Sir, she complain for her two arms, and was in great pain.

20th. What hour was this?

20th. Between seven and eight o'clock in the evening.

21st. Did you call Dr. Keech to her?

21st. No, Sir.

22d. Why did you not?

22d. I asked her if I should call the Doctor, and she told me no.

23d. Did you ever give any Patient a book of any description; if yea, state the name of the Patient, and the description of book?

23d. I gave Ann Pratt a book, I can't remember what book it was, but it was the book the Minister baptize Prudence child with.

24th. Who did the book belong to?

24th. I borrowed it from Mr. Atkins, the Dispenser.

25th. For what purpose did you give the book to Ann Pratt, as you did not know what book it was?

25th. She was praying, and told me that she wished she could get a book, she would comfort herself.

26th. What time was this?

26th. About six o'clock, just as I went in.

27th. Were you ever desired by any one of the Officers of the Public Hospital and Lunatic Asylum to tell Ann Pratt not to say anything about the treatment of the Lunatic Patients before Mrs. Branagan?

27th. No, Sir; I never have no talking with them at all.

28th. Are you quite sure that Dr. Keech never gave you such instruction?

28th. No, Sir; I never recollect that Doctor ever tell me anything of the sort.

29th. Are you aware that in a pamphlet, alleged to be written by Ann Pratt, such is stated to have occurred?

29th. I hear the pamphlet read by my neighbour, but I never stop till the whole of it done.

30th. Did you ever hear any Patients threaten, as soon as they come out of the Asylum, to go and complain; and, if so, state particulars?

30th. Yes, Sir, Henrietta Dawson often said, quite common in the Asylum, that when she come out she would go and tell Dr. Bowerbank all what was going on.

31st. Did she ever threaten to complain to the Medical Officers, or to the Inspector and Director?

31st. No, Sir, but she said if you was in the country she would go and complain to you, because you will stop and hear her. She say it is no use to complain to the Doctors, for Mrs. Ryan won't make them talk to Doctor.

32d. Did you ever mention to the Matron, or to the Medical Officers, that this Patient had complained of being prevented speaking to the Doctor by Mrs. Ryan?

32d. No, Sir, I never tell any person.

33d. Have you ever been questioned by any person outside the Institution, with regard to the treatment of Patients in the Asylum?

33d. No, Sir, before I would do such a thing I would go and tell it to Dr. Scott, or Dr. Keech; nobody can dare to ask me such a question.

34th. Have you shewn any particular acts of kindness to individual Patients, as Night Nurse; and, if yea, state the nature and particulars of such kindness?

34th. Yes, I have, Sir; sometimes I give them a little cake, and if I am eating my dinner after I go in, I give them a piece; sometimes I buy a cake, and break it up, and give it to them through the window at night, not any one particular, I give to any of them.

35th. Have you shewn Ann Pratt any particular acts of kindness?

35th. No more than I do to the rest.

36th. Have you been asked any questions, by any one outside the Institution, about

36th. No, Sir, I have never been asked any questions at all about her.

Matilda Carey, a late Patient in the Asylum?

37th. Did you ever see either Mrs. Ryan, or any of the Nurses, ill-treat Matilda Carey, or bathe or duck her in an improper manner?

37th. No, Sir, I never saw it; all I know they generally give me a pan of arrowroot to feed her in the night, which I did.

38th. Have you ever seen any cruelty practised towards any Patient, or have you ever seen any Patient stripped and improperly exposed in the open yard before the Nurses, Labourers, or other Patients, or have any Patients ever complained to you of such usage?

38th. No, Sir, I never saw any cruelty practised, and I never saw any Patient stripped or exposed, and I never heard any one complain of such usage; they have a bath room, where they strip them; they never strip them in the yard, if they done it they must have done it when I am not there.

39th. Then, in all the complaints to you, by Ann Pratt, and Henrietta Dawson, did they never once complain of being made to strip in the open yard before the laborers, or other Patients?

39th. No, Sir, they never complain to me of such a thing. I never hear of such a thing.

40th. Did Ann Pratt complain to you of any improper treatment of her by the Nurses, when in the act of bathing her; and, if so, state the nature of her complaint, and when she made it?

40th. She told me, when I came one night, that Antoinette duck her, and had hold of her hair, both her hands, and two Patients had hold of her legs, one each, and duck her in the water; and she said one sit upon her stomach, and when she was fighting in the water, she laid hold of Mrs. Lewis's hand and bite her, and while she was biting Mrs. Lewis's hand, Antoinette take and bite her (Ann Pratt's) arm and thumb. I never saw any one knock her, or ill-treat her, with my own eyes.

41st. Did any other Pa-

41st. No, Sir; none else

tient ever complain to you about being ill-used, or beaten while they were being bathed?

ever complain.

Taken before me, this 30th July, 1860.
D. P. TRENCH, Inspector and Director of the Public Hospital and Lunatic Asylum.
And, in my presence,
ANDREW DUNN, M. D.

No. 5.

CALEB L. HALL EXAMINED BY INTERROGATORIES.

QUESTIONS.	ANSWERS.
1st. What is your name, and what position do you hold in the Public Hospital and Lunatic Asylum?	1st. My name is Caleb L. Hall, and I am Purveyor of the Public Hospital and Lunatic Asylum.
2d. Have you had frequent opportunities of witnessing the treatment observed towards the Lunatic Patients by the Nurses of the Female Asylum?	2d. I have, to a certain extent.
3d. Have you ever seen any improper or violent treatment of the Lunatic Patients on the part of the Nurses; if yea, state the particulars?	3d. I did once; which was the case that I reported to you on the 26th June last, when I saw a Patient being roughly handled by Nancy Lloyd, a Day Nurse.
4th. Is the case you have just referred to, the only one that has occurred under your own observation?	4th. It is the only one.
5th. Have you ever seen any improper force used by the Nurses towards Ann Pratt, when she was an inmate of the Lunatic Asylum?	5th. I remember going through the Female Asylum one morning; in doing so I met Ann Pratt with her eye black; I asked her how she got it hurt, and she told me one of the Nurses had struck

her purposely. I called the Matron, and three of the Nurses, and asked them about Ann Pratt's eye; they all told me it happened when putting her into the room, as she was outrageous.

6th. Did Ann Pratt ever complain to you that she was ill-used in the bath by the Nurses, or that she was made to strip in the open yard, and before the other Patients or Laborers?

6th. She never did complain of that, but I have heard her remark, at different times, about the ill-treatment of other Patients by the Nurses. She has also complained of their ill-treating her, but never spoke about the tanking, or the stripping.

7th. Did she relate to you the particulars of the ill-treatment she complained of; if yea, state what they were?

7th. She did not complain of any particular ill-treatment, but merely complained generally of the Nurses.

8th. Did Ann Pratt at any time ask you to send for the Revd. Mr. Watson, or to write for her to that Gentleman; if yea, did you do so, and state particulars?

8th. She did several times, but I did not write, nor did I send for him, as I considered it no part of my duty to interfere with those matters.

9th. Did you report, to the Principal Medical Officer, or to the Acting Inspector and Director, that Ann Pratt had expressed a wish to see Mr. Watson?

9th. I did not, as she told me she had already expressed that wish to Dr. Scott.

Caleb L. Hall.

Taken before me, this 3d of August, 1860.
D. P. Trench, Inspector and Director of the Public Hospital and Lunatic Asylum.

No. 6.

No. 42.—Duplicate.

Public Hospital, July 30th, 1860.

Reverend Sir,

I shall be much obliged if you will assist me to find out, from the friends, and the attending Minister, of the late Louise

Cocherell, late a Patient in the Lunatic Asylum, whether, during the period she was an inmate of that Institution, she had, at any time, complained to her friends, or her Ministers, of any ill treatment at the hands of the Officers or Servants; and, if so, the nature of such complaints.

I remain,
Reverend Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
D. P. TRENCH, Inspector and Director of the Public Hospital and Lunatic Asylum.

The Reverend J. DUPEYRON, Vicar Apostolic,
&c. &c.

6, Upper King Street, July 31, 1860.

MY DEAR SIR,

In answer to your Letter of yesterday's date, I beg to state, that the only one of my Clergy who visited the late Louise Cocherell, whilst she was an inmate of the Lunatic Asylum, is the Reverend Mr. Dupont, and, as you saw him this morning, I naturally suppose that you put to him the question contained in your Letter. I sent this morning for a near relation of the above mentioned Louise Cocherell; one of her servants has just called upon me with the message that her mistress would not have any thing to do with the Hospital affairs, but that if she were obliged to speak, it would not be in favor of the Establishment. (I suppose that she means the Lunatic Asylum).

Believe me, my Dear Sir,
Your's very truly,
J. E. DUPEYRON, Vicar Apostolic.

D. P. TRENCH, Esquire.

No. 7.

No. 46.—Duplicate.

Public Hospital, 6th August, 1860.

REVEREND SIR,

I am desirous of embodying, in my Report to his Excellency the Governor, the substance of the Revd. Mr. Dupont's reply to my personal enquiry, on the subject of the late

Louise Cockerell, while an inmate of the Asylum, and, before doing so, I shall be much obliged if the Revd. Gentleman will allow me to draw his attention to the conversation I had with him on the subject, at the *Committee Room of the Hospital*, and say whether the following substantially represents his reply to my question, as to whether, in his Ministerial visits to Louisa Cockerell, she had ever made any complaints *to him* of ill treatment, or whether, to his knowledge, she had ever complained to her friends.

The Reverend Gentleman's reply being "That he had only visited Louise Cockerell three times—that on one occasion he had an interview of about twenty minutes with her in Mrs. Ryan's Hall; that she tried always to persuade him that she was not out of her senses, *but that she never complained of being ill treated.*"

That the mother, or grandmother (I now forget which), had told him, that the *wrists* of Louise Cockerell were very much blistered from the sun, *but she had never complained of being ill used.*

If the foregoing is incorrect, *in the least degree*, I will ask the favour of Mr. Dupont to correct it.

I have the honor to be, Reverend Sir,
Your most faithful Servant,
D. P. Trench, Inspector and Director of the
Public Hospital and Lunatic Asylum.

The Reverend the Vicar Apostolic, &c. &c.

6, Upper King Street, August 8, 1860.

My Dear Sir,

Your Letter of the 4th came to hand yesterday evening, and, agreeably to your desire, I communicated it to the Reverend Mr. Dupont; after carefully perusing it, he told me that your statement of the conversation, which you had with him, in regard to the late Louise Cocherell, (pronounced Coshrel), is *quite correct.*

I have the honor to be,
Your obedient Servant,
J. E. Dupeyron, Vicar Apostolic.

D. P. Trench, Esq.

No. 8.

Extract of a Letter, dated 30th July, 1860, addressed to a Gentleman in this city by William Browne, Esq. Justice

of the Peace for the Parish of Hanover, and one who signed the commitment of "Ann Pratt," as a Lunatic, to the Kingston Lunatic Asylum.

"I have perused the pamphlet carefully, and feel bound to state to you my opinion, which is also the opinion of every intelligent person in this town, who has perused it, that the poor creature is quite unable to write, or dictate such a production, and that the "*kind friend*," who, she states, in the Preface, assisted her to draw up her "*imperfect sketch*," has, for some sinister purpose of his own, exaggerated the complaints she has been induced to make, of the necessary discipline of the Lunatic Asylum.

"After perusing the pamphlet, I saw the Magistrate, Mr. Sharpe, Dr. Brebner, and his Assistant, Mr. Cort, the Clerk of the Peace, the Superintendant of the Prison, the Matron, Mrs. Crooks, the Churchwardens, the Sergeant of Police, and other persons, and the unanimous opinion of all, myself included, is, that Ann Pratt was mad, and dangerously mad too, while in the Female Prison at Lucea, and for two days before she was committed there; and a Lady, who was one of her fellow-passengers on board the Marie Louise, declared that, on two occasions, she was seized with fits of madness.

"We are all ready to make oath to this fact, whenever an investigation is ordered.

"The mother of Ann Pratt informed me that she was mad some years since, and I believe she has been rather eccentric since that time.

"One evening, in December last, I think, while riding out, I was accosted by Ann Pratt, who complained to me that a brutal assault had been committed on her by three men, named Davis, M'Kenzie, and Morris, bookkeepers on the Kew estate, adjoining her cottage. I told her to come into town next morning, and make oath to the charge, and I would issue warrants for their apprehension. This was accordingly done, and the prisoners were bound over to appear at the ensuing Court, to answer the charge. I was prevented, by pressing business, from attending at the Court myself, but I was informed that Mr. Justice Sharpe heard another case that she had against one of the above named persons, M'Kenzie, or Davis, for abusive language, and a cross warrant against herself, on the same charge, and fined both parties. The charge against the men, for the assault on her, was low down on the Calendar, and could not be heard that day. It would have been heard next day, but she unfortunately became insane that evening. The Clerk of the Peace caused strict enquiry to be made, to discover further evidence of the assault,

alleged by Ann Pratt to have been committed on her, but could not obtain any, and was obliged to have the prisoners bound over to appear, when called.

"I learned subsequently that Ann Pratt is the mother of two children for a man named Levi, who was living with, or married to another woman; that she had been cohabiting with one of the prisoners, M'Kenzie, who was also living with another woman, and that it was in consequence of some quarrel, arising from jealousy, between her and M'Kenzie, that she had him, and Davis, and Morris, arrested on the charge of assault.

"The morning after she became insane, she apparently had a lucid interval, and was quiet.

"I directed the Police Sergeant to send her home to her friends, but at midnight she was brought into town by her neighbours, who declared that she had endeavoured to kill one of her children, and to stab one or two of the neighbours with knives.

"The Magistrates were then obliged to have her confined, but employed her own mother to attend on her. While in prison she was outrageous, stripping herself naked, and Mr. Cort assured me she attempted to eat her own ordure; the Doctor was obliged to have her put into a strait-waistcoat, and to order her removal to the Lunatic Asylum, as the Hanover prison was an improper place for her to remain in.

"Her children have been cared for in her absence, and the Authorities directed Captain Symmonette to bring her home as soon as she was well enough to leave the Asylum.

"This is all I know about this unfortunate woman. I have no doubt that the quarrel with her lover, and the dispute with, or perhaps the indecent assault of the other two men, brought on again her old complaint—insanity. I believe she had frequent lucid intervals, but I think she was certainly mad when in the Asylum, and, like many unfortunate persons in that state, she took a dislike to some of the Attendants, whose duty it was to restrain her; and, after leaving the Asylum, eagerly embraced the opportunity which some *disinterested philanthropists* afforded her to gratify her vengeance against the objects of her hatred.

"When the whole truth is known, the case of Ann Pratt will be regarded, by unprejudiced persons, as an addition to the catalouge of abortive attempts to injure an Institution, which appears, on the whole, to be very well conducted, and suited to the requirements of the Island.

"I am, my Dear Sir, faithfully yours,

(Signed) WM. BROWNE.

"P. S. You are of course quite welcome to use this Letter in any way you think necessary, for the cause of truth and justice.

"W. B."

I Certify, That the foregoing is a verbatim Copy of the original Letter, produced to, and read over by us.

D. P. TRENCH.
H. D. MACKAY, Senr.

No. 48.

Public Hospital, 10th August, 1860.

SIR,

I have the honor to submit to his Excellency the Governor the enclosed Letter, addressed to me by the Clerk of the 6th August, 1860. Peace of Hanover, together with a Statement 6th August, 1860. which accompanies it from the Surgeon to the Prison of Hanover, and which came to my hands on the day after I had closed and forwarded my report, No. 47, of the 8th August.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedt. Servant,

D. P. TRENCH.

H. W. AUSTIN, Esq. Gov. Sec. &c. &c.

Peace Office, Hanover, Lucea, 6th August, 1860.

MY DEAR SIR,

I am in receipt of your favor of 2d instant. When my attention was first directed to the pamphlet, published in the name of *Ann Pratt*, entitled "Seven Months in the Kingston Lunatic Asylum, and what I saw there," I thought of replying, through the medium of the Press, to that portion of it which charges the authorities of Hanover with having conspired against "a poor, unprotected woman"—of having denied her common justice, punished her for complaining of a felony, and of capping the climax to the other wrongs which they committed on her, by sending her without cause to the Lunatic Asylum. On further consideration, however, it seemed to me that the writer of the pamphlet had so en-

tirely overshot his mark, that the inconsistencies and improbabilities are so apparent on the face of it, as to afford a sufficient contradiction in itself, rendering it unworthy of further notice.

The pamphlet contains unimportant particulars respecting the birth, childhood, and school-girl days of Ann Pratt, but is entirely silent on her history during the last twenty years. This peculiarity is explained by the fact, that "Miss Pratt" has, for years past, borne the character of a prostitute, has had connection with black men, and had children, the result of promiscuous intercourse, two of whom are now alive.

The circumstance of her having "attended the ministry of the Reverend James Watson," and been "one of his Sabbath School children," redounds but little to her credit at present, since I have ascertained from reliable sources (her own relatives), that for some years before Mr. Watson left Lucea (viz. in 1850), up to the present time, "Ann Pratt" has not been known to have attended any place of worship, but, to her other sins, had added that of desecrating the Sabbath, "that sacred day which she had always been taught to reverence." So much for her antecedents. I would be glad if I could for a moment imagine that such abounding grace had recently been imparted to her, as would cause the sincere expression of pious sentiments at the end of the first page of the Preface, but linked as those sentiments are, with such "a great deal of false evidence," evidently prompted by "revenge," and "to gratify a wounded spirit," they must be attributed to the inventive imagination of her "*kind friend*," who assisted her in "drawing up" this "necessarily imperfect sketch;" and I doubt not that *his* motives are as obvious to all disinterested readers of the pamphlet on your side of the island, as they are to all here with whom I have had an opportunity of conversing on the subject.

It appears that in October, 1859, a libertine, named John Davis, came as a bookkeeper to the Kew estate, about half-a-mile from Barbary Hill, a village where Ann Pratt resided, and a familiarity speedily sprang up between them.

On 1st *December*, 1859, Ann Pratt came to the Peace Office, accompanied by Police Sergeant Sanftleben, with a request from Mr. Justice Browne, that I would hear her statement, and issue proceedings upon it. I did so. She stated, that on the night of the 10th *November*, 1859, John Davis, accompanied by his brother bookkeepers, George M'Kenzie, and John Morris, had come to her house, and that Davis, with the assistance of the others, had beaten her violently, had thrown her on the ground, held her down, and committed a rape on her; that when he had ————,

and ran away from the house. In reply to questions which I put to her, she said that, after they left, she went to bed; she had not complained to any one of it; did not think that any one heard her call out, and had no witness to corroborate her statements in any point. She had *not* "broken the silence of the midnight hour, by cries for help, in the hope," &c. Not one of the neighbours knew that her "house was attacked," nor could she give any reason for having remained for *three weeks*, "smarting under the foul and grievous wrongs which ill-usage had inflicted on her," "spending the long and dreary nights in weeping and crying, &c." instead of coming down immediately after, and informing against the alleged ruffians. I considered her statement exceedingly improbable, but made out the following information, which she signed and swore to before Mr. Browne, and a warrant was issued for the apprehension of the accused parties:—

"Jamaica, ss.
Hanover.

"The information and complaint of Ann Pratt, of the Parish of Hanover, taken this first day of December, in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty Nine, before the undersigned, one of her Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the said Parish of Hanover, who saith, that John Davis, of the said Parish, did, on the night of the 10th day of November, 1859, at the Parish aforesaid, make an assault upon this deponent, and did, then and there violently, and against her will, ravish and carnally know her, and that John Morris, and George M'Kenzie, of the said Parish, did aid and abet the said John Davis to commit the said offence."

Anxious to have the matter properly investigated, I directed the Police Sergeant to send one of the most intelligent men to the neighbourhood, to make diligent enquiries as to whether there were any means of corroborating the woman's statement. This was attended to, and Policeman Dahll reported to me that there were houses in the Village, within a few yards of Ann Pratt's house, from which the least noise must have been heard; that none of the inmates overheard any screams or noise, which would lead them to suspect that such an outrage had been committed on her. That Davis had been seen, both before and after the *10th November*, frequenting Ann Pratt's house at late hours at night; that it was understood among them that he was cohabiting with her; and although not "prevented from intercourse with friends," nor "deprived of the means of informing them," that she had never complained or mentioned the

circumstance to any of them till two or three days before the date of the information; and (which, in my opinion, formed a clue to the whole affair, shewing her motive to be that of "revenge," and to gratify a "wounded spirit,") that Davis had, a few days before her complaint was lodged, taken another woman to live openly with him at the Kew.

My efforts at corroborating this "innocent victim of gross ill treatment," however, did not cease there. I got Dr. Brebner to examine her person carefully, and the result of his examination you will find in the annexed statement.

Besides the complaint of rape, Ann Pratt complained that George M'Kenzie made use of abusive language to her on the 29th November. She said she had not money to pay the fee for a summons against him, and I gave her one without charge. The next day George M'Kenzie attended at my office, and complained of having been abused by Ann Pratt, and got a summons against her, paying the fees for it. On the first Court day, the Court list contained forty-five cases—the case against Davis and others for rape, and another case of felony were, in accordance with a practice which obtains in our Petty Sessions, allowed to stand over for depositions to be taken the following day, and the accused parties entered into recognizance, with sureties, for this purpose. The case against M'Kenzie, for abusive language to Ann Pratt, was first proceeded with. There being only one Justice (Mr. Sharpe) sitting, both plaintiff and defendant were asked by me, in the terms of 21st Vic. cap. 9, sec. 6, whether they were satisfied to have the case tried before one Justice; they both consented. The language proved against the defendant was his calling plaintiff a damned————and a damned————. He was fined 10s. and costs, or, in default, five days' hard labour. They then changed places, and Ann Pratt was charged with abusive language to George M'Kenzie. The same questions were put to them, and their consent given to have the case tried before one Justice.

The following is *a copy of the Notes of Evidence* taken at the time, and they will give some idea of the choice expressions used by this "poor unprotected woman," who had, in childhood, been at the "Mico School," and the "School at Paradise," and the "Sabbath School," and who fell into convulsions from the treatment she received at Court from the Magistrates! and who is made to appear so horrified at the "shocking and obscene language" alleged to be used in the Asylum:—

"The Queen vs. Ann Pratt { Abusive language to George M'Kenzie.

"George M'Kenzie, sworn.—Am bookkeeper of Kew.

Heard, on the morning of 29th November, that defendant had accused me. I saw her at the water-hole at Kew. (Note—This water-hole is on the main road leading to Montego-Bay, about a quarter of a mile from her house), and asked her about it. Came to high words. She called me a damned worthless ————; a damned ————; damned worthless ————. I called her a damned liar, a damned w——."

"David Stewart, sworn.—Was passing along the road; heard M'Kenzie and Pratt abusing each other. She cursed him 'damned ————; a damned ————;' he abused her too."

"Mary Campbell, sworn.—Saw Ann Pratt at the water-hole at Kew. M'Kenzie asked her about something he had heard, and called her a lying strumpet. She said your father is a damned bump-jaw ————. (Note—Mr. M'Kenzie's father, a respectable old Gentleman, has a large wen on his jaw. She called him a damned ————; that she knew him when he had ————."

In defence, Ann Pratt entered into an account of what she alleged had been done to her on the night of *10th November*. The Justice told her, that after a lapse of nearly a month, it afforded no justification for using such language in the Queen's road, and he inflicted the same fine as on M'Kenzie, viz. 10s. and costs, or five days' hard labour. Both parties paid. This is the treatment she received at Court, and the injury added by the Magistrate, &c.!

The next day I learned, from the Police, that they had been called at midnight by a relative of Ann Pratt, namely Miss Dias (alluded to in the pamphlet) to remove Ann Pratt from her house, as she had bitten her severely, and was otherwise very violent, and out of her senses, (Vide their Statements). The accused, Davis, M'Kenzie, and Morris, appeared in accordance with their recognizance, but Ann Pratt, not being in attendance, their bail was extended to the following day. I then learnt that Ann Pratt had again been given in charge to the Police, raving mad (vide Statement herewith), and the defendants' bails were again extended for a week, and so from week to week, till it was ascertained from the Medical Officer, Superintendant, and Matron of the Female District Prison (the only place we have for the safe custody of Lunatics), that no hopes were entertained of her early recovery; and then the defendants were bound under recognizance to appear whenever called on; and shortly after, proceedings were taken in due form, under 19th Vic. chap. 4, to have Ann Pratt removed to the Lunatic Asylum. I saw her once or twice on my official visits to the Prison, and can

add my testimony to the fact of her being raving mad, and the person who would venture to deny her being so, would either be a knave or a Lunatic himself.

The "large amount of false evidence" which the pamphlet contains, with respect to the authorities of Hanover, affords a pretty good test as to the reliance which is to be placed on the rest of this "necessarily imperfect sketch." If the Lunatic did, indeed, as is pretended (page 4 of Preface), keep in her memory dates, events, persons, names, particulars, and treatment, it is to be deplored, that for the purposes of "revenge," and to gratify "a wounded spirit," they should have been "*lately washed over*" with pen and ink by her "kind friend," so that there cannot be "found underneath the wash" anything but gross exaggerations and untruths, so far at least as the narrative has reference to this Parish. *Who* is that kind friend? All here, who have read the pamphlet, pronounce it to be the same quondam "unflinching friend of the unfortunate," and the "truthful" expositor of pretended "mismanagements," and fancied "atrocities."

I have not time to-day, or would add a few remarks with regard to the absurdities apparent on the face of the pamphlet, in reference to the discipline in the Asylum.

In conclusion, I may mention, that you have my sanction for making any use you may think proper of this Letter, either officially, or in the Newspapers; and that every word of this explanation is susceptible of the clearest proof.

I remain, &c. &c. &c.

J. S. TRENCH, Clerk of the Peace, and Clerk of the Magistrates, for the Parish of Hanover.

The following is the Statement alluded to in the foregoing Letter:

"REMARKS ON ANN PRATT'S CASE.

"I have known Ann Pratt for many years; she is illiterate, and quite unequal to such a work as the production, entitled "Seven Months in the Kingston Lunatic Asylum." She has, for some years past, cohabited with a Jew, named Levi, by whom she has two children, who are now in the custody of her (Ann Pratt's) mother, and have been, for the last eight or nine months, supported at the parochial expense. I examined the person of Ann Pratt on the 7th of December, 1859, at the Court-House, in Lucea, by request of Mr. J. S. Trench, Magistrates' Clerk, and Clerk of the Peace, to ascertain if there were any marks of violence on her, as she had brought forward a charge of felonious assault against one

Davis, and others, in which she had, as she stated, received some bruises. I perceived a very faint and trifling black-and-blue mark on the calf of one of her legs, which might have been occasioned, on a person of her fair complexion and relaxed habit, by very slight pressure. I could not, however, perceive any indication of an injury which she stated she had received, viz: a laceration of the———by the broken handle of a chair. In submitting herself to my examination she evidenced much excitement and exaggeration of manner, which I concluded to be consequent on the outrage, she said she had sustained. I did not at this time know that she had, on a former occasion, been insane, or would have looked more clearly into it, and would doubtless have concluded, and correctly, that this excitement was premonitory of another outbreak of insanity—the lightning before the storm. I did not give evidence in this case on the 7th December, 1859. Wednesday is generally a busy day in Petty Session; it is usual to put off serious charges, for investigation, on the day following. I have not yet been examined, in consequence of Ann Pratt's insane state following so soon. On the 10th December I saw Ann Pratt at the Female Prison; she was quiet and melancholy, and her body evinced very rough handling, being very much bruised. She stated to me that the people at Johnson's Town had been running her, and that to escape she had got under a bed; and that a man had struck her all over with a sword to get her out. She also, with coherency, gave me some detail of her past life, and her reason for living at Barbary Hill. There was, however, abundant evidence to satisfy me of her insanity. On the 11th (next day), I found her furious, using language of the foulest kind, and naked, having torn off her clothes as often as put on. She remained in the Female Prison till January 15th, when she was sent to the Asylum in Kingston by the "Marie Louise" schooner.

"The form of insanity under which she suffered here was '*mania*,' alternating with '*melancholia*;' during the paroxysms of the former, she would utter the most indecent language, strip herself naked—eat her own excrement, and rub her body over with her "*fœces*." Under these last-named circumstances, and sufficient attendance not being available, the jacket had, much to my reluctance, to be used at times. After the subsidence of these furious paroxysms, she would settle down for a day or two into a quiet melancholy, when she would allow her proper dress to remain, and take exercise in the open yard quietly, and converse with those around. These periods of quiet were generally of short duration, and finding that she was not getting better, I determined on

sending her away from the prison, which is a most improper place for such cases. Her mother attended on her all the time, and by her I was told that Ann Pratt had, on a former occasion, for some three months, been in a nearly similar state, only not so furious; therefore her friends managed to take care of her. When embarked on board "Marie Louise," she was in one of her melancholy moods, and amused herself by tearing up her hat, and bits of paper. We are compelled to keep such cases temporarily in the prison, having no other convenient place, till water conveyance for Kingston offers. Several opportunities offered in Ann Pratt's case, but we did not deem them sufficiently comfortable, so preferred waiting for the "Marie Louise," a large schooner, commanded by a most kind and humane Captain, on whose attention to her reliance could be placed.

(Signed) "WM. BREBNER,
"Medical Attendant, Hanover Jail.

"Lucea, Hanover, 6th Aug. 1860."

No. 964. Gov. Sec. Office, King's House,
11th August, 1860.

SIR,

I have submitted to the Governor your Letters of the 3d and 8th instant, with their several Enclosures, reporting upon the complaint of Ann Pratt, late a Lunatic Patient in the Asylum under your supervision, and upon the contents of a pamphlet recently published in her name.

2. The first of these documents having been referred to the Acting Attorney-General, I am to acquaint you, that although, as you therein observe, the persons more immediately implicated in the charges preferred by Ann Pratt had been dismissed from the service of the Asylum before those charges were preferred, that Officer has stated, that immediately upon the charges in question being made by Ann Pratt, by way of information, on oath, before a Magistrate, he will feel it incumbent on him, when officially informed of that fact, to direct such criminal proceedings to be taken, in respect of her case, as he may, under the circumstances, consider himself enabled by law to adopt. You will cause a communication to this effect to be made to Ann Pratt immediately.

3. With regard to your Report upon the Pamphlet, as you state that that publication has been extensively circulated throughout the island, and transmitted by the last packet

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Public Hospital and Lunatic Asylum.

To Ann Pratt, North Street.

No. 973.

Gov. Sec. Office, August 13th, 1860.

Sir,

I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of the 11th inst. with its Enclosures, and to state, that his Excellency is of opinion that the Letter of the Clerk of the Peace for Hanover, as well as Dr. Brebner's Statement, should be published with the other Papers, in the case of Ann Pratt. I therefore return them.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obt. Servt.
Hugh W. Austin, Gov. Sec.

D. P. Trench, Esq. Inspector and Director.